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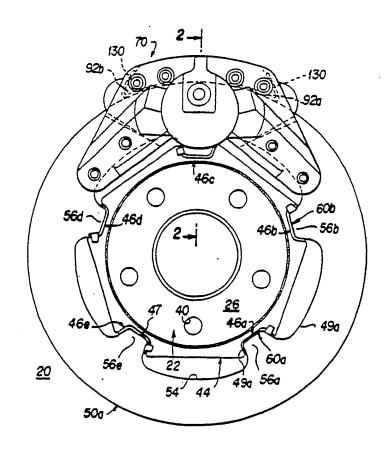
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(54) Title: DUAL DISK BRAKE

(57) Abstract

A disk brake (20) comprising a disk hub (26) adapted to be mounted to a wheel (21); a plurality of annularly shaped rotors or disks (50a, b); means for mounting the rotors (50a, b) to the disk hub (26) such that the rotors rotate with disk hub (26) and are free to slide in a first direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of rotation; a pair of opposing situated brake pads (108a, b; c, d), one associated with each rotor (50a, b), and means for urging the brake pads into frictional engagement with the rotors. Specially shaped liners (60) interposed grooves (46) of the hub (22) and teeth (56) of the rotors. A second set of liners is fitted between a brake caliper (70) and the brake pads.



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DUAL DISK BRAKE

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates generally to disk brakes and more particularly to disk brakes which employ a plurality of rotors or disks slidably mounted relative to a fixed caliper.

10 One of the inherent problems associated conventional disk brakes is that the required clamping loads are quite high for a given torque. To generate such clamping loads requires massive calipers. of these calipers necessitates the use of disks or rotors of reduced diameter. The high clamping loads 15 similarly dictate the use of large diameter cylinders within the calipers and coupled with the deflection of the caliper create a brake having a "spongy" feel. addition, the high clamping loads generate increased heat; conventional disk brakes use a large amounts of 20 metal to dissipate the heat and are therefore heavier than a drum brake equilivent.

The principal advantage of the dual disk brakes is lower clamping loads. The effect of the lower clamping loads permits a reduction in the weight and perhaps the cost of the dual disk brake. A pronounced problem of the prior dual disk brakes is that they have tended to bind or brinnel on their hub and are prone to rattle.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention, a plurality of annular shaped rotors are splined to a disk 30 The plurality of rotors present increased surface hub. areas Which distributes heat quickly, thus proportionately reducing lining temperature providing for faster fade recovery. More specifically, the splined design of one enbodiment of the present

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invention includes a plurality of grooves formed in a disk hub and a like plurality of seth formed in each of two rotors. In another embodimer of the invention the teeth are formed on the disk hus and the grooves are formed in the rotors. A hardened stainless steel liner is placed in a groove and receive, a corresponding tooth in a manner to distribute the load from the tooth throughout the relatively soft ask hub. This liner is arcuately shaped and includes a deformable wall absorb torque and to cushion the rotor. At very high torque levels this deformable wall bottoms out, which enhances the distribution of forces onto the disk hub. In one embodiment these liners have a loaded flat side and a curved side which loads the disk in a direction to reduce the amount of "squirming" during breaking. Another embodiment uses rotor teeth with parallel In this way the rotor is located only by the sides of the teeth as they are biased into the disk hub and not by the bottom of the groove, thereby allowing for greater thermal expansion without loss of guidance. By utilizing the sliding dual rotor configuration of the present invention, several options are regarding the construction of the caliper housing. of these options is to use a stamped steel caliper This is possible because the clamping loar. generated between the caliper and each rotor are reduced by a factor of two (2). Further, it first should be noted that the in the present invention the caliper can be fixedly mounted to the steering knuckle as opposed to prior designs that require the caliper to bsorb torque while being slideable attached to the steers knuckle.

One important characteristic of a breat is fluid stiffness, that is, the volume of fluid the has to be added (or deleted) to change applied torque by a given

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amount. This fluid stiffness is affected рA rigidity or structural stiffness of the caliper, this is as the caliper deflects more or less fluid, as the case may be, is needed to change the applied torque. present invention the piston area can be half that of a single disk design so the bridge of the caliper could be made half as stiff in order for the overall stiffness of the system to be the same. In actual practice, the twin disk design is generally 30 per cent to 50 per cent stiffer than conventional brakes. A counter factor presented by dual disk brakes is that the total pad compression may be increased since four (4) pads are used in series instead of two (2). In actual practice, however, since the total pad area is greater, thickness can be reduced, offsetting this effect.

In addition, generally the total friction material required in brake is determined characteristics and the desired life. In the present twin disk brake, since brake effort is divided between four (4) pads, each pad will exhibit one-half the wear per pad (when compared to two pad Consequently, operating temperatures are lowered wear is reduced. Therefore, it is reasonable that the lining material used in the present invention could be one-half the thickness of a conventional brake.

Accordingly, the preferred embodiment of the invention comprises: a disk brake including a disk hub adapted to be mounted to a wheel, a plurality of annular rotors or disks, means for mounting the rotors to the disk hub such that the rotors rotate with disk hub and are free to slide in a first direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of rotation, a plurality of opposing situated brake pads, one associated with each rotor and means for urging the brake pads into

sequential frictional engagement with the rotors. Specially shaped liners interpose groves in the disk hub and teeth on each rotor. A secon set of liners is fitted between a caliper bridge and the plantality of brake pads to enhance sliding and redu friction.

Many other objects and purposes of the invention will be clear from the following detailed description of the drawings.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 illustrates a cross-sectional top view of a disk brake constructed in accordance with the present invention.

FIGURE 2 illustrates a front plan view of various components illustrated in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 illustrates a projected view of an insert.

FIGURE 4 illustrates an isolated plan view of a caliper bridge illustrated in FIGURES 1 and 2.

FIGURE 5 is a plan view of one of the four brake pads shown in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 6 is a projected vie of another insert which is also shown in FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 7 is an enlargement of a portion of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 8 illustrates a schematic free body force diagram.

FIGURE 9 illustrates an alternate embodiment of the invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

FIGURES 1 and 2 illustrate a dual disk brake 20 mounted within a conventional vehicle wheel 21. The 15 disk brake 20 includes a cylindrical disk hub 22. disk hub includes an axially extending cylindrical wall 24 and a radially extending, substantially flat wall The configuration illustrated in FIGURE 1 typical of that used in front wheel drive vehicles. 20 wheel 21 is mounted to a wheel hub 28 and secured thereto by a plurality of lugs 30. The wheel hub is supported by a steering knuckle 32 of known variety. The wheel hub is drivingly connected to a drive shaft It should be appreciated that while the invention 25 is illustrated in the context of the front wheel drive vehicle, the invention is not so limited and may be employed on any of the wheels of the vehicle.

The wheel 21, wheel hub 28, drive shaft 34, and lugs 30 have not been shown in FIGURE 1 to avoid undue cluttering of this FIGURE. The disk hub 22 is adapted to be mounted to the wheel hub 28 and to the wheel 21. Such mounting means may include a plurality of openings 40 through which are received the various lugs 30. The exterior of the wall 24 is formed as a polygon-type

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structure. More specifically, as illustrated in FIGURE 2, this structure is of the form of a pentagon having five sides 44 extending perpendiculas to the radial wall Formed at the intersection of each of these sides 44 are axially extending grooves c. slots 46a-e. groove 46 includes a bottom 47 and walls 49 extending outwardly therefrom. Slidably received within grooves or slots 46 are first and second rotors or disks 50a and 50b. The words rotors and disks are used interchangably herein. The rotors are preferrably fabricated of cast iron but may be made of other materials and are of substantially annular, ring-like construction. Extending inwardly from the inner edge 34 of each rotor 50a and b are a plurality of teeth 56a-e and 58a-e. FIGURE 2 shows a plan view of the rotor 50a illustrating the placement of its teeth 56. The same number of teeth (58a-e) are similarly fabricated on rotor 50b (only tooth 58c is shown in FIGURE 2). noted above, the preferred embodiment of the invention utilizes five grooves 46 and five conformally shaped teeth 56 OI 58. It has been found that preferrable to utilize an odd number of grooves and teeth so as to minimize the vibration of the rotors 50a and b during brake application. While the number of grooves and teeth illustrated in FIGURE 2 is equal to it should be appreciated that more or less, or five, even bbo numbers of grooves and teeth contemplated within the scope of the present invention.

In order to reduce the cost and weight of a disk brake manufactured in accorandance with the present invention, the disk hub 22 need not be fabricated of a material having the durability of the material used for the rotor. Further, in order to enhance the ability of the rotors to slide in the grooves 46, to distribute the

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compressive loading of the rotors over a greater area of the disk hub, to reduce contact stress and corrosion, and to reduce the vibration and rattle of the rotors relative to the disk hub, a plurality of spring inserts 60a-e are fitted to the disk hub and positioned between the various slots 46 and the teeth 56, 58 of the rotors 50. It should be appreciated that the thickness of these various inserts 60 has been increased to clearly show them in the FIGURES.

A typical insert such as insert 60 is illustrated in 3. The profile of each insert substantially U-shaped having a bottom 62 and extending resilient walls 64 and 66. As can be seen in FIGURES 2 3 and 8, at least one wall, such as wall 66, is arcuately shaped to effectively spring load the rotors against the disk hub 22. During assembly, the inserts 60 are fitted to the respective grooves 46 and secured to the disk hub 22 by a plurality of extending tabs 68a and b. When the brakes are applied, the rotors will be loaded against the disk hub 22 compressing the arcuate wall 66 thereby distributing compressive loads along the length of the groove 46.

It is illustrative, at this point, to compare the construction of the present invention with that of conventional disk brakes. As described above, the rotors 50 of the present invention are designed to slide relative to the disk hub 26. In addition, the total inner surface 54 of each rotor is not in contact with the brake hub. In contrast, conventional rotors are not movable in a lateral direction (it is the caliper which slides). Further, these prior rotors cannot expand inwardly since they are in total contact with other vehicle or wheel components. Consequently, as these prior rotors expand they also distort, such distortion

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causing the frequently sensed vibration under heavy In contrast, as can be seen from FIGURE 2, a braking. significant portion of the inner side of the annularly shaped rotors 50, with the exception of the extending teeth, are spaced from the sides 44 of the disk hub 22, as such the rotors of the present invention are free to expand and distortion is reduced or totally eliminated. Further, conventional disc brakes often generate audible squeal which occurs during heavy braking which is due in part to the distortion of the rotors. rotors of the present invention exhibit less distortion and are significantly quieter. During braking a large amount οf heat is generated. This heat must dissipated through the rotor to avoid causing distortion, as such prior rotors are often ventilated to assist heat distribution, thus increasing the weight of The rotors of the present invention must also dissipate heat. Dissipation is enhanced by the increased surface area of the two rotors without sacrificing weight.

FIGURE 7 is an enlargement of one of the grooves 46b showing its bottom 47b and extending walls 49b and b'. Fitted to the groove 46b is tooth 56b having a bottom 57b and sides 59b and b'. Positioned between the tooth 56b and the slot 46b is the insert 60b. The angle of the tooth sides 59 and also the angle of the sides 49 of the groove 46b has been chosen to minimize contact pressure and to minimize the tendency for the rotor to "squirm." This effect occurs because the force imported from the rotor to the hub is a combination of a lateral force and a torque (since the friction contact is concentrated at the caliper). Therefore, each tooth sees a combination of forces that have a resultant force vector that changes in magnitude and direction during

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rotation. In the present invention the angle of the tooth is made perpendicular to the resultant force vector at the point of rotation where the magnitude is greatest, thus eliminating the tendency for the rotor to continuously shift positions during rotation. methodology of determing the above-mentioned angles is described with reference to FIGURE 8 which is schematic free-body diaphragm of the disk hub 22 and one of the rotors 50. Upon activation of a brake caliber 70 (described below) a reaction force vector F is generated on each rotor 50. This reaction force vector can be translated to the center of the disk hub 22 and is represented by an equivalent friction force force F_R and torsional T_R respectively. components of the axial frictional force F_R have been shown by the horizontal force vectors located at the diagramatical positions of each of the teeth 56 shown in FIGURE 2. The components of the torsional reaction torque TR have been shown as radially acting vectors $\mathbf{T}_{\mbox{Ri}}$ at the point of location of each of the respective Letente teeth 56. Each of the axial and torsional reaction vector components have been summed using conventional vector notation to generate a resultant reaction force at each tooth location. As can be seen, the various reaction forces R_1-R_5 applied to each tooth during breaking varies both in magnitude and direction. It has been found that the maximum resultant force during braking will occur somewhere between the points A and B. As such the angle of the side wall 59b' and the angle of the wall 49b' are chosen to be perpendicular to the resultant force vector R_5 with the angle of the opposite side walls 59b and 49b equal though opposite thereto. Having determined the above relation, the geometry of the other teeth and grooves is identical.

As mentioned above, an alternate embodiment to the invention shown in FIGURES 1 and 2 on be achieved by fabricating the walls of the teet and grooves as parallel. It is envisioned that the ottoms 57 of the teeth would be spaced sufficiently from the liners 60 so that the bottoms do not contribute to centering the rotors within the grooves of the fisk hub 22. The centering or locating of the rotors relative to the disk hub is accomplished as all of the spring or curved sides of the liners bias the rotor teeth into the opposing wall of the groove. In this manner the rotors may expand freely as their temperature increases.

FIGURE 9 illustrates an alternative embodiment or invention wherein a disk the hub 22' comprises plurality of radially extending teeth 200 and wherein each of the two disks such as 50a' and 50b' grooves 202 to receive the teeth 200. FIGURE illustrates only disk 50a'.

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Reference is again made to FIGURES 1 and 2. slow the motion of the wheels 21, the present invention utilizes a brake caliper assembly generally shown as The caliper assembly comprises a housing 72 which defines a cylinder 74 into which is received brake fluid through an inlet port 75. Reciprocatively positione within the cylinder is a piston 76. Appropriate sealing is used between the housing 72 and the piston 76 to prevent brake fluid from leaking therefrom. The extending face 78 of the piston defines engagement surface. Extending from the mausing 72 is a caliper bridge 80. The caliper bridge includes a bridge or axially extending portion 86 and an ad face The end face 84 may be integrally formed as part of the bridge portion or separate therefrom. The end face

also defines a second engagement surface 84. The bridge portion 86 is generally arcuately shaped and may be fastened to the housing 72 by bolts 82 or the like. The bridge portion 86 is shown in partial isolation in FIGURE 4. The bridge portion 86 comprises curved upper and lower surfaces 90 and 91. The surfaces 90 and 91 are tapered at ends 92a and 92b. As can be seen from FIGURE 2, the end 96 of the bridge portion 86 engages a mating surface 96' of the top segment 98 of the housing.

The tapered sides 92a and b of the caliper bridge 80 support a plurality of brake pads 108a-d. Each brake pad 108a-d comprises a backing plate 110e and a pad of friction material 112. As can be seen from FIGURE 2, the first rotor 50a is fitted between the brake pads 108a and b while the second rotor 50a is fitted between the brake pads 108c and d.

As mentioned above, the bridge portion 86 of the caliper bridge 80 includes the tapered sides 92a and 20 Each of the backing plates 110a-d which steel, preferably fabricated of includes inwardly projecting tabs 122a and b and an arcuately shaped middle surface 124 which is conformal to the arcuately shaped lower surface 91 of the caliper bridge 80. 25 tabs 122 and middle surface 124 cooperate to define grooves 120a and b having the same shape as the sides The various backing plates 110a-d are slid onto the caliper bridge 80 prior to attachment to the housing The securement of the various backing plates 110 in 30 tangential and radial directions is achieved by the cooperation of the tapered ends 92 with the grooves An insert or liner, such as, insert`130 FIGURES 2,4,6) is positioned between each tapered side 92a and 92b and the grooves of the backing plates. assembly the inserts 130 lightly bias the various 35

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backing plates away from the caliper bridge in order to prevent rattling. In addition, it is contemplated that such inserts 130 are fabricated of handened stainless steel and distribute the compressive loading of the various backing plates along the length of the tapered sides 92a and 92b, and provide a smooth surface upon which the backing plates may slide, reducing wear of the caliper bridge and brake pads and preventing corrosion.

As mentioned above, the grooves 120a,b are received upon the tapered sides 92a,b respectively. The angle of the surfaces of the sides 92a,b and hence the angle of grooves 120 are set such that the reaction to the friction force F_F (see FIGURE 4) on each pad 108 (i.e. tabs 122 of the backing plate 108) is normal to the respective upper and lower surface of the grooves. This relationship can be seen from FIGURE 4 which illustrates the reaction to the friction force FF on a typical brake pad 108 which has been resolved in two forces F_1 and F_2 acting normal to the surfaces of the sides 92a,b.

In operation, prior to the activation of the piston the wheel 21, disk hub 22, and various other components are freely rotating. In addition, the rotors 50a and b which are attached to the disk hub 26 are rotating relative to the various pairs of brake pads 108. Upon application of the brake pedal, the piston 7 is moved outwardly from the housing 72 thereby causing the various brake pads to engage the rotors sequential manner. As an example, the friction material pad 112d is urged by the piston 76 onto the rotor 50a. . This action moves the rotor into contact with the opposingly positioned friction material pad 112c. Thereafter, and in a similar manner, the backing plate 110c urges the friction material pad 112b into contact with rotor 50b which in turn urges the rotor 50b against

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the friction material pad 112d. The above motion produces a frictional engagement between the various friction pads and their corresponding rotors thereby decelerating the motion of the wheel. Upon release of the brake pedal, the pressure within the cylinder 74 will decrease and the above-described frictional engagement between the various friction pads and the rotors is terminated. Thereafter the various friction pads will remain closely positioned relative to the rotors.

From the above it can be seen that the present invention utilizes four friction surfaces which engaged in a serial manner to reduce the rotational speed of the various rotors. By using the two pairs of brake pads, the present invention generates twice the amount of braking force as compared with conventional disk brakes which utilize a single rotor and a single pair of opposingly positioned friction pads. to achieve the same braking force as that required in a conventional caliper/disc brake system, it is necessary to exert one-half of the force previously This reduction in the force required to actuate the brake may be sufficient to eliminate the need for power brake boosters. Further, since the braking forces are now distributed across the caliper bridge by four backing plates, the caliper housing and bridge can be made thinner and lighter thereby improving overall vehicle weight efficiency.

The basic advantage of this brake is that the braking effort is distributed among four friction surfaces instead of two. This characteristic can be taken advantage of in several ways. First, the clamping loads are halved, allowing the use of a caliper that is half the strength while maintaining the same effective

stiffness as defined by the volume of fluid required to affect a given change in brake torque. The increased surface area of the rotors increases heat transfer to In addition, the inner stameter of the rotor the air. can be increased, reducing the verhang 150 bridge structure, further allowing a thinner bridge. example, by increasing the onner diameter of rotor compressive forces acting across the brake pads will be moved closer to the caliper bridge, reducing the tortional force that the caliper bridge must withstand. The thinner bridge allows the use of an even larger diameter rotor, further reducing the clamping requirement and increasing the surface area of The larger inner diameter of the rotor also allows use of a larger diameter splined tooth section, reducing the load on each tooth. The temperature produced by superior cooling improves the durability of the lining material, allowing the use of thinner friction material pads. Also, since wear distributed over four friction material pads, thickness can be reduced further. Reduced heat input per friction surface means that each rotor can have half the mass of a conventional rotor, eliminating the need for ventilated rotors. Further, the rotors are simple in shape alternate materials such as stamped copper, or aluminum are practical.

Many changes and modifications in the above described embodiment of the invention can, of course, be carried out without departing from the scope thereof. Accordingly, that scope is intended to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

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IN THE CLAIMS

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- A disk brake (20) comprising:
- a disk hub (22) adapted to be mounted to a wheel (21);
- a plurality of flat, annularly shaped rotors or disks (50a,b);
- means, formed by the disk hub and rotors for attaching the rotors (50a,b) to the disk hub such that the rotors rotate with disk hub (22) and are free to slide in a first direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of wheel rotation;
- a plurality of pairs of opposing situated brake pads (108a,b,c,d), one pair associated with each rotor (50a,b) and means for urging the brake pads into frictional engagement with their respective rotors,

wherein the attaching means includes a plurality of grooves (46), extending in the first direction and a like plurality of mating teeth (56,58) slidably received within corresponding grooves, and

wherein each groove comprises a flat bottom (47) and walls (49) angularly situated, and outwardly extending from the bottom (47), and

wherein the attaching means further includes an insert or liner (60) between each groove (46) and corresponding tooth (56,58), and

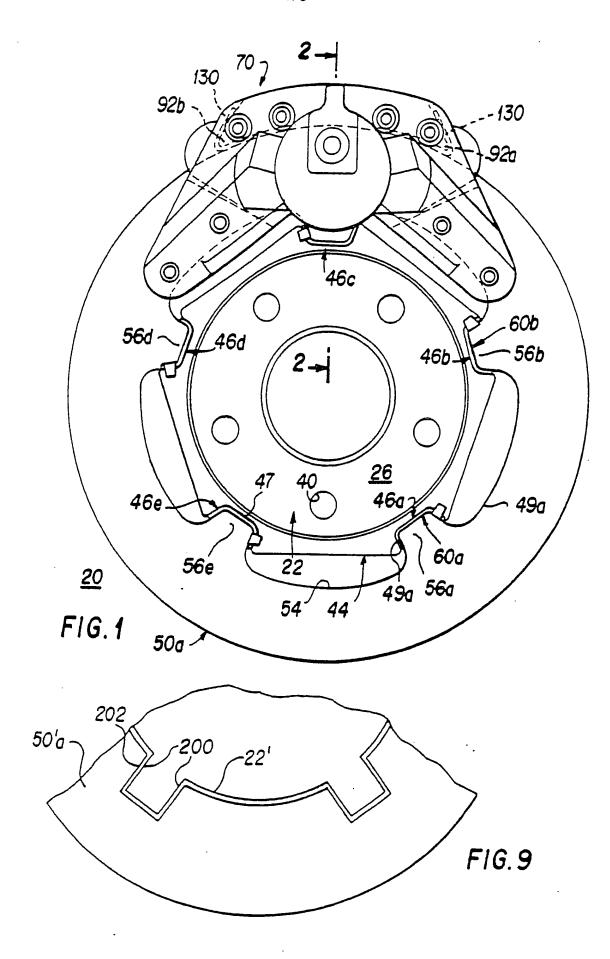
wherein the insert comprises a thin walled structure including a bottom (62) adapted to seat upon the bottom (47) of the groove (46) and walls (64,66) extending outwardly therefrom, and characterized in that one of the walls (64,66) of the insert (60) is arcuately shaped to bias corresponding teeth towards an opposite wall of its corresponding groove.

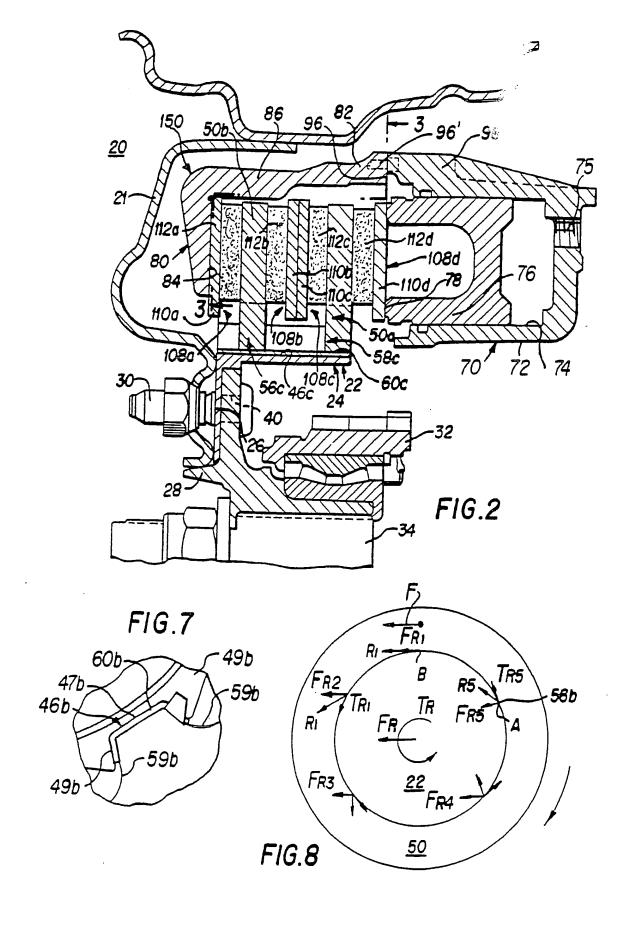
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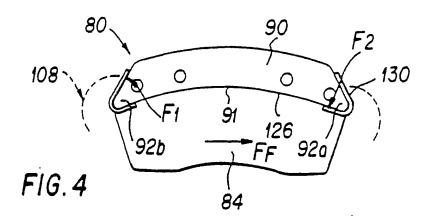
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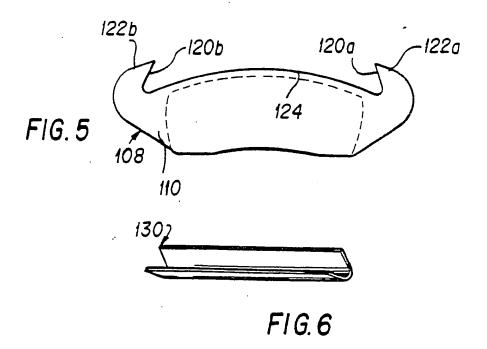
- 2. The brake as defined in Claim 1 wherein the arcuately shaped insert wall nominally urges the rotors in a direction opposite to the direct on of rotation.
- 3. The brake as defined in Claim wherein the insert includes means for securing same to the brake hub, and wherein the securing means includes a plurality of [extending] tabs (68) extending from one wall of the insert adapted to fit to an end wall of a respective [ends of the] disk hub (22).
- 4. The brake (20) as defined in Claim 1 wherein the plurality of grooves (46) are formed in the disk hum (22) and extend in the first direction, and wherein each rotor includes a plurality of mating teeth (56,58) extending from an inner edge (54) thereof.
- 5. The brake as defined in Claim 1 wherein the angle of one of the walls is chosen to be perpendicular to a maximum resultant friction reaction force and wherein the angle of the other wall is equal and opposite in direction.

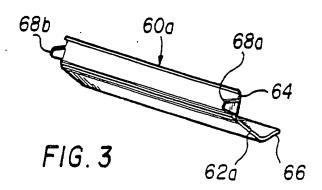
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US 88/04479

| I. CLAS | SIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (il several cla | salfication symbols apply, Indicate all) 4 | |
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ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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